

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2215,
21ST CENTURY DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE APPROPRIATIONS AU-
THORIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the establishment of a Violence Against Women Office in H.R. 2215, the Department of Justice Authorization Conference Report. The establishment of a strong office that will have jurisdiction over all matters related to violence against women is long overdue. I am pleased to know that this office will have access to the highest levels of Department of Justice policy making and will have a director who is appointed by the President. I hope the President will make a thoughtful decision and use this opportunity to appoint a director who is a true advocate for women's safety, not just a figurehead. Violence against women is one of the most serious problems in this country today, and we need to have strong laws, adequate resources, and effective enforcement efforts in order to combat it. I believe the establishment of this office is a step in that direction.

In addition, if we are serious about helping women who have been victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, it is critical that we provide them with the resources they need to escape the violence. I urge my colleagues to appropriate funds to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for transitional housing programs for women and their children who have been victims of such violence. I have introduced H.R. 3752, the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Victims Housing Act, which would authorize \$50 million for FY 2003 for such a program. This bipartisan legislation currently has 112 cosponsors. It is crucial to provide a stable, sustainable home base for women who have left situations of domestic violence and are learning new job skills, participating in educational programs, working full-time jobs, or searching for adequate child care in order to gain self-sufficiency. Transitional housing resources and services provide a continuum of care between emergency shelter and independent living.

It is time that we make ending violence against women a national priority. I believe the establishment of a strong Violence Against Women Office is an important step in the right direction.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF LEROY
SMITH

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an exemplary member of the Long Island community.

The Suffolk County Police Department consistently shows us the best and most heroic that Long Island has to offer. For thirty-two years Detective LeRoy Smith has been a commendable member of that department. During

a career that has spanned three decades, Detective Casey has served on numerous high-profile cases. In 1992 he was transferred to the Homicide Squad where he helped put some of the most abhorrent criminals behind bars. He worked on the TWA Flight 800, Long Island Sniper cases and other important cases. He has made a lasting contribution to the safety of Long Island residents.

On August 5, 2002, Detective LeRoy Smith retired from the Suffolk County Police Department. He will be missed by his colleagues and by the community that has depended upon his hard work for so many years. I come to this floor so that I may offer my congratulations and best wishes to Detective Smith.

Mr. Speaker, Long Island owes a debt of gratitude to Detective LeRoy Smith.

TRIBUTE TO ERNIE HARWELL

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a resolution to congratulate Ernie Harwell. On September 29, 2002, Mr. Harwell signed off for the last time as the "voice of the Detroit Tigers."

For over forty years, Ernie Harwell has brought the Detroit Tigers alive for those who could not make it to the ballpark. Since 1960, people all over Michigan and the Great Lakes region have been able to listen to Mr. Harwell on the radio or television. In that time, Ernie Harwell has become synonymous with baseball, like hot dogs, peanuts, and Crackerjack.

As a child, Ernie Harwell overcame a speech impediment and made his first mark in the sports world by writing for "The Sporting News". As a sixteen year old, he was assigned as the correspondent to the Atlanta Crackers. In 1948, he became the only broadcaster to be traded for a player. The Brooklyn Dodgers sent Cliff Dapper to the Atlanta Crackers in exchange for Ernie Harwell. Since then, Mr. Harwell has broadcast games for the Brooklyn Dodgers, New York Giants, Baltimore Orioles, and the Detroit Tigers. Amazingly, in those 55 years, Mr. Harwell missed only two games.

Ernie Harwell has been inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame, the National Sports-casters Hall of Fame and the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame. He has been named the Michigan Sports-caster of the Year 17 times. In 1981, Mr. Harwell became the first active broadcaster to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

Throughout the 2002 baseball season, Ernie Harwell has been recognized as one of the true greats of the game. He has been honored with pre-game ceremonies. He has thrown out first pitches. In Cleveland, the visitor's press box was renamed "The Ernie Harwell Visiting Radio Booth." September 15, 2002, was "Ernie Harwell Day" at Comerica Park in Detroit.

While Ernie Harwell is leaving the radio booth, he plans to remain active in the Detroit community. Mr. Speaker, I wish Ernie Harwell and his wife, Lulu, health and happiness as they pursue their future endeavors.

TELEVISION CONSUMER FREEDOM
ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Television Consumer Freedom Act, legislation repealing regulations that interfere with a consumer's ability to avail themselves of desired television programming.

My office has received numerous calls from rural satellite and cable TV customers who are upset because their satellite or cable service providers have informed them that they will lose access to certain network television programs and/or cable networks. The reason my constituents cannot obtain their desired satellite and cable services is that the satellite and cable "marketplace" is fraught with government interventionism at every level. Cable companies have historically been granted franchises of monopoly privilege at the local level. Government has previously intervened to invalidate "exclusive dealings" contracts between private parties, namely cable service providers and program creators, and has most recently assumed the role of price setter. The Library of Congress has even been delegated the power to determine prices at which program suppliers must make their programs available to cable and satellite programming service providers.

It is, of course, within the constitutionally enumerated powers of Congress to "promote the progress of science and useful arts by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries." However, operating a clearing-house for the subsequent transfer of such property rights in the name of setting a just price or "instilling competition" via "central planning" seems not to be an economically prudent nor justifiable action under this enumerated power. This process is one best reserved to the competitive marketplace.

Government's attempt to set the just price for satellite programming outside the market mechanism is inherently impossible. This has resulted in competition among service providers for government privilege rather than the consumer benefits inherent to the genuine free market. Currently, while federal regulation does leave satellite programming service providers free to bypass the governmental royalty distribution scheme and negotiate directly with owners of programming for program rights, there is a federal prohibition on satellite service providers making local network affiliates' programs available to nearby satellite subscribers. This bill repeals that federal prohibition and allows satellite service providers to more freely negotiate with program owners for programming desired by satellite service subscribers. Technology is now available by which viewers will be able to view network programs via satellite as presented by their nearest network affiliate. This market-generated technology will remove a major stumbling block to negotiations that should currently be taking place between network program owners and satellite service providers.

This bill also repeals federal laws that force cable companies to carry certain programs. These federal "must carry" mandates deny